

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.



www.nwjad.org

On behalf of myself and the Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.'s 225+ members, we applaud Attorney General Peter C. Harvey, the Division of Civil Rights, and the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's efforts and hard work to make possible captioning in all the movie theaters in NJ!

We are excited about this huge milestone for New Jersey, and hope the other 49 states will be inspired to follow suit.

It is so important for families and friends to be able to enjoy going to the movies together. I stopped going to movies long ago when I got tired of pretending to enjoy myself. I tried to match my emotions with the majority of the audience by laughing when they did, or producing alligator tears to go along with the real ones that the film elicited for those who can hear. It's harder for Deaf parents to sit through a movie with their hearing children without captions. Hearing children have expressed to me that they feel sad that their parents can't enjoy the movie, thus makes it harder for kids to enjoy it to the fullest. Many of us waited to see the film on videotape, which is a weak substitute for a first run film on a big screen. We are thrilled that now, here in New Jersey, the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened will be able to experience movies on the same par with those who can hear, and we applaud each and every person who worked so hard to create access for our community.

Thank you all!!!

Very sincerely,

Bonnie Thomas
NWJAD President